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(54) Title: COMPRESSION MOLDED CELLULOSE (CMC) LOUDSPEAKER CABINETS AND METHOD FOR MAKING SAME
(54) Titre: ENCEINTES ACOUSTIQUES EN CELLULOSE MOULEE PAR COMPRESSION ET LEUR PROCEDE DE FABRICATION

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to loudspeaker cabinets (10) composed of a moldable wood material and a method for making the same. In particular, the present invention relates to loudspeaker cabinets (10) composed of a compression molded cellulose (CMC) material resulting in a cabinet for loudspeakers with improved acoustic and physical properties. In accordance with the present invention, a compression molded cellulose material, and a process for the mixing, extrusion, and compression molding of the compression molded cellulose material has been developed. Cabinet designs with rounded forms are made possible using the compression molded cellulose material and process. The characteristics of the compression molded cellulose material in combination with the unique shape of each cabinet is designed to enhance the fidelity of the sound produced by the loudspeaker mounted in the cabinet.

(57) Abrégé

La présente invention concerne des enceintes acoustiques (10) constituées d'une matière bois moulable et un procédé de fabrication de ces dernières. Il s'agit plus particulièrement d'enceintes acoustiques (10) formées de matière cellulosique moulée par compression qui produit une enceinte pour haut-parleurs ayant des propriétés acoustiques et physiques améliorées. Selon la présente invention, on a mis au point une matière cellulosique moulée par compression et un procédé permettant de mélanger, d'extruder et de mouler par compression ladite matière cellulosique moulée par compression. Cette matière cellulosique moulée par compression et le procédé associé permettent de fabriquer des modèles d'enceintes ayant des formes arrondies. Les caractéristiques de la matière cellulosique moulée par compression combinées à la forme spécifique de chaque enceinte sont prévues pour améliorer la fidélité du son produit par le haut-parleur monté dans l'enceinte.

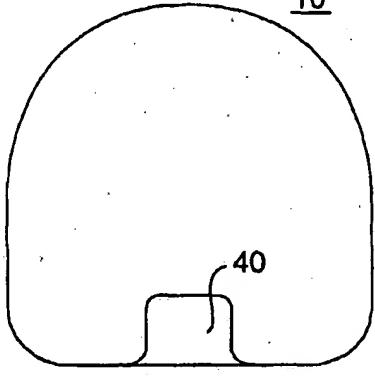
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(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: SCHROEDER, Ernest, C. (US/US); 401 Goldsborough Street, P.O. Box 2156, Easton, MD 21601 (US).		
(74) Agent: COYNE, Patrick, J.; Collier, Shannon, Rill & Scott, PLLC, Suite 400, 3050 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007 (US).		
(54) Title: COMPRESSION MOLDED CELLULOSE (CMC) LOUDSPEAKER CABINETS AND METHOD FOR MAKING SAME		
(57) Abstract <p>The present invention relates to loudspeaker cabinets (10) composed of a moldable wood material and a method for making the same. In particular, the present invention relates to loudspeaker cabinets (10) composed of a compression molded cellulose (CMC) material resulting in a cabinet for loudspeakers with improved acoustic and physical properties. In accordance with the present invention, a compression molded cellulose material, and a process for the mixing, extrusion, and compression molding of the compression molded cellulose material has been developed. Cabinet designs with rounded forms are made possible using the compression molded cellulose material and process. The characteristics of the compression molded cellulose material in combination with the unique shape of each cabinet is designed to enhance the fidelity of the sound produced by the loudspeaker mounted in the cabinet.</p>		
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Description

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Compression Molded Cellulose (CMC) Loudspeaker Cabinets and Method for Making Same

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This application relates to and claims priority on provisional application serial number 60/129,377, filed April 15, 1999 and entitled "Compression Molded Cellulose (CMC) Loudspeaker Cabinets and Method for Making Same" and utility patent application serial number _____, filed March 2, 2000 and entitled "Compression Molded Cellulose (CMC) Loudspeaker Cabinets and Method for Making Same."

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Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to loudspeaker cabinets composed of a moldable wood material and a method for making the same. In particular, the present invention relates to 10 loudspeaker cabinets composed of a compression molded cellulose (CMC) material resulting in a cabinet for loudspeakers with improved acoustic and physical properties.

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Background of the Invention

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The quality of sound created by a loudspeaker is significantly influenced by the shape 15 of the cabinet in which it is mounted and by the acoustic properties of the material from which the cabinet is made.

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Loudspeaker cabinets are traditionally constructed of various types of wood or fabricated 20 wood materials such as particle-board, press board, plywood, and fiberboard that are available only in sheet form. Cabinets fabricated from sheets of material possess angular junctions and flat 45 internal surfaces that degrade the accuracy of the sound generated by the loudspeaker. Flat internal cabinet surfaces reflect sound waves in a regular pattern that interfere with the waves emanating from the loudspeaker. This interference creates standing wave cancellation resulting 50 in distortion and loss of loudspeaker efficiency. The quality of reproduced sound from traditional

5 "box" shaped loudspeaker cabinets is inferior to the quality of reproduced sound from
loudspeaker cabinets incorporating curved internal surfaces. Curved internal cabinet surfaces
reflect sound waves randomly thereby minimizing standing wave cancellation and distortion and
10 enhancing efficiency.

15 5 Additionally, the leakage of air at the connection points of flat panels adversely affects
the loudspeaker's overall performance. Molded cabinet construction eliminates joints thereby
ensuring a leak-proof cabinet.

20 10 Traditional cabinet materials are available only in fixed densities as they are generally
intended for architectural and/or structural applications. The densities are not always ideal for
15 acoustic applications since the rate of decay of the sound energy in the material directly affects
25 the quality of the sound produced by the loudspeaker incorporated into cabinets composed of
these materials. In contrast, the density of compression molded cellulose (CMC), the present
30 invention, can be controlled and modified by formulation and process variations to conform to
specific acoustic criteria. This flexibility greatly enhances the quality of the sound from the
35 15 loudspeaker mounted in the CMC cabinet.

40 35 There is a need in the industry for loudspeaker cabinets, and a material and process for
making the same, with improved acoustic and physical properties. There is also a need in the
industry, especially the automotive, marine, and other applications, for a loudspeaker cabinet and
45 20 material with a greater resistance to water, weather, and abrasion damage. There is also a need
in the industry for a moldable material with improved physical properties such as abrasion and
water resistance for use in non-loudspeaker applications.

50 45 Currently available loudspeaker cabinets are also limited in the designs available with
regard to shape and surface detail due to the materials employed. Plastic or non-cellulose based
materials may be available, but are not readily capable of accepting paint or other decorative

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treatments, may be difficult to work with, and the costs of production may be prohibitively high.

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In many applications, loudspeaker performance is enhanced if the cabinet can be made airtight. Cabinet construction using traditional materials with angular joints makes airtight cabinet construction nearly impossible. There is a need in the industry to provide cabinets that are airtight.

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There is also a need in the industry to provide loudspeaker cabinets with various densities to match the requirements of the loudspeaker. There is also a need in the industry to be able to manufacture cabinets with the above advantages from readily available materials with predictable costs. There is also a need in the industry to provide loudspeaker cabinets with an increased service life which are not susceptible to rot or other types of decay or degradation. There is also a need in the industry for a material which is capable of being manipulated (cut, drilled, threaded, sanded, etc.) easily with standard tools and techniques. There is also a need in the industry to provide loudspeaker cabinets which are not only impermeable to water and other liquids, but also to gases and other fumes which may be harmful to the loudspeaker components. There is also a need in the industry to provide loudspeaker cabinets not only with varying material densities, but also with controllable and variable wall thickness.

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Objects of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to

fabricate loudspeaker cabinets having improved acoustic properties.

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It is another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets having improved physical properties.

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It is a further object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets having unlimited design latitude with regard to shape and surface detail.

15

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets having high resistance to water and weather and abrasion damage.

20

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets capable of accepting paint and or other decorative treatments.

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It is still yet another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets having a lower per unit fabricated cost.

30

It is another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets having the ability to be produced by simple methods such as low-pressure compression molding using fabricated tooling.

35

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It is another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets having few or no seams or joints ensuring an air-tight enclosure.

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It is another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets of varying material densities to meet the specific requirements of various acoustic applications.

50

It is another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets from readily attainable materials with predictable costs.

5

It is another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets with long service life capability.

10

It is another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets with the capability of being manipulated with standard tools and techniques.

15

It is another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets that are impermeable to water and air.

20

It is another object of the present invention to provide a material and process with which to fabricate loudspeaker cabinets that are of controllable and uniform wall thickness.

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Additional objects and advantages of the invention are set forth, in part, in the description which follows and, in part, will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art from the description and/or from the practice of the invention.

30

Summary of the Invention

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In response to the foregoing challenge, Applicants have developed an innovative, economical material and process yielding weatherproof cabinets of any shape, which have greater acoustic integrity and improved physical properties at a lower cost per unit. The material, compression molded cellulose (CMC) is a novel blend of wood fibers and other organic and inorganic fillers bonded within a matrix of thermoset resins.

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In accordance with the present invention, a process for the mixing, extrusion, and compression molding of the CMC material has been developed which employs standard commercially available equipment in combination with specifically designed presses and molds. The equipment employed is inexpensive and simple to maintain and operate.

50

5 Molds developed for this process and material may be fabricated quickly at low cost and
at the site of production of the loudspeaker cabinets. Cabinet designs with rounded forms are
10 made possible using the material and process. The characteristics of the material in combination
with the unique shape of each cabinet is designed to enhance the fidelity of the sound produced
5 by the loudspeaker by reducing the sound-wave cancellation and distortion typically found in
15 cabinets with flat surfaces. (See Fig. 6 and Fig. 7 for results of free air testing of an embodiment
of the present invention, a typical 10", .65 cu. ft. sub woofer cabinet).

20 In an embodiment of the present invention, a loudspeaker cabinet comprises at least one
wall made of a compression molded cellulose material. The loudspeaker cabinet may comprise
10 a face portion, a shell portion, and means to join the face portion to the shell portion, wherein the
shell portion and/or the face portion is composed of a compression molded cellulose material.
25 The loudspeaker cabinet may include a shell portion containing a recessed area to accommodate
speaker terminal connections, and a face portion possessing a means to mount a loudspeaker to
30 the face portion. The loudspeaker cabinet may possess a shell portion and a face portion with
15 curved interior and exterior surfaces. The loudspeaker cabinet may also contain compression
35 molded cellulose material that is of uniform density.

40 In an embodiment of the present invention the loudspeaker cabinet of compression
molded cellulose material may comprise thermoset resins in the range of 25-85% and a catalyst
45 in the range of 1-5%. In addition to the thermoset resins and the catalyst, the loudspeaker cabinet
20 of compression molded cellulose material may be comprised of at least one of the following:
milled glass fiber in the range of 1-10%; fine wood flour in the range of 1-20%; course wood
flour in the range of 10-40%; glass beads in the range of 5-20%; fly ash in the range of 5-20%;
50 colloidal silica in the range of 0.5-3%; fine grind calcium carbonate in the range of 5-20%;
alumina trihydrate in the range of 5-20%; elastomeric particulate in the range of 2-15%; a

5 foaming agent in the range of 1-3%; organic fibers in the range of 5-10%; and finely divided
metallic material in the range of 20-50%.

10 The thermoset resins may be selected from, but not limited to, the group comprising
polyester thermoset resins, unsaturated polyester thermoset resins, polyurethane thermoset resins,
5 epoxy thermoset resins, and phenolic thermoset resins. The thermoset resin may be a blended
unsaturated polyester thermoset resin, or any hybrid combination of thermoset resins. The fine
15 wood flour may be mesh size 100 - 200, the coarse wood flour may be mesh size 10 - 50, the
elastomeric particulate may be comprised of rubber and/or rubber tire regrind.

20 The catalyst may be, but is not limited to, Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide and/or Methyl
10 Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen. The foaming agent may be 1,1-dimethylethyl hydrazine
25 chloride and/or iron chloride. The organic fibers may be mesh size 10 - 60 and may be jute. The
metallic material may be, but is not limited to, lead and/or aluminum.

30 In an embodiment of the present invention, a loudspeaker cabinet may be comprised of
a compression molded cellulose material, wherein the compression molded cellulose material
35 comprises unsaturated polyester thermoset resins in the range of 90-99% and the catalyst Methyl
Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen in the range of 1-10%.

40 A method of manufacturing a loudspeaker cabinet of a compression molded cellulose
material may comprise the steps of: blending dry compression molded cellulose ingredients in
45 a first blender to form a blended dry compression molded cellulose mixture; mixing liquid
compression molded cellulose ingredients, excluding a catalyst, in a first mixer to form a mixed
liquid compression molded cellulose mixture; continuously combining the blended dry
compression molded cellulose mixture and the mixed liquid compression molded cellulose
mixture in a second mixer to form a high viscosity compression molded cellulose mixture;
50 pumping the high viscosity compression molded cellulose mixture into a third mixer by means

5 of a first pump while simultaneously introducing a catalyst into the high viscosity compression
molded cellulose mixture by means of a second pump to form a catalyzed compression molded
10 cellulose mixture; extruding the catalyzed compression molded cellulose mixture into at least one
male or female mold of at least one of a male and female mold set; heating the catalyzed
15 compression molded cellulose mixture upon introduction to the at least one male or female mold
to 100 - 200 degrees F.; closing the at least one mold set to distribute the catalyzed compression
molded cellulose mixture; compressing the at least one mold set to pressures of between 5 - 100
20 PSI; maintaining the pressure until the catalyzed compression molded cellulose mixture forms
at least one cured compression molded cellulose part; opening the at least one mold set and
10 removing the at least one cured compression molded cellulose part; removing flash from the at
least one cured compression molded cellulose part; and bonding the at least one cured
25 compression molded cellulose part using a compatible adhesive.

30 The dry compression molded cellulose ingredients may comprise at least one of milled
glass fiber, fine wood flour, coarse wood flour, glass beads, fly ash, colloidal silica, calcium
15 carbonate, alumina trihydrate, elastomeric particulate, organic fibers, or finely divided metallic
material. The liquid compression molded cellulose ingredients may comprise thermoset resins
35 and/or a foaming agent. The first blender may be a ribbon blender. The first mixer may be a
high shear mixer of the batch or continuous type. The second mixer may be an auger mixer.

40 The high viscosity compression molded cellulose mixture may be formed in a
temperature and/or vacuum controlled environment. The high viscosity compression molded
cellulose mixture may be pumped into the third mixer at a rate of 7000 - 10000 centimeters per
45 second. The third mixer may be a static mixer or a multi element static mixer. The first pump
and the second pump may be positive displacement pumps, and the first pump may be
50 functionally linked to the second pump.

5 The catalyzed compression molded cellulose mixture may be extruded into the at least
one male or female mold by use of a metering extrusion head. The catalyzed compression
10 molded cellulose mixture may be heated by means of at least one heated mold surface and/or by
means of at least one heater at the point of extrusion. The pressure may be maintained from
15 between 5 - 20 minutes after addition of the catalyst.

15 In an embodiment of the present invention, a loudspeaker cabinet may be comprised of
compression molded cellulose material, wherein the compression molded cellulose material
20 comprises: thermoset resin in the range of 71-83%; coarse wood in the range of 10-16%; fine
wood in the range of 1-3%; glass bead in the range of 4-8%; silica in the range of 0.1-2%; and
25 catalyst in the range of 1-3%. The thermoset resin may be an unsaturated polyester thermoset
resin. The coarse wood may 20 mesh pine wood flour. The fine wood may 100 mesh pine wood.
The silica may be AeroSil. The catalyst may be Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen.

30 In an embodiment of the present invention, the compression molded cellulose material
may comprise thermoset resins in the range of 25-85% and a catalyst in the range of 1-5%. In
35 addition, the compression molded cellulose material may comprise at least one of the following:
milled glass fiber in the range of 1-10%; fine wood flour in the range of 1-20%; coarse wood
flour in the range of 10-40%; glass beads in the range of 5-20%; fly ash in the range of 5-20%;
40 colloidal silica in the range of 0.5-3%; fine grind calcium carbonate in the range of 5-20%;
alumina trihydrate in the range of 5-20%; elastomeric particulate in the range of 2-15%; a
45 foaming agent in the range of 1-3%; organic fibers in the range of 5-10%; and finely divided
metallic material in the range of 20-50%.

50 The thermoset resins may be selected from, but not limited to, the group comprising
polyester thermoset resins, unsaturated polyester thermoset resins, polyurethane thermoset resins,
epoxy thermoset resins, and phenolic thermoset resins. The thermoset resin may be a blended

5 unsaturated polyester thermoset resin, or any hybrid combination of thermoset resins. The fine
wood flour may be mesh size 100 - 200, the coarse wood flour may be mesh size 10 - 50, the
elastomeric particulate may be comprised of rubber and/or rubber tire regrind.
10

15 The catalyst may be, but is not limited to, Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide and/or Methyl
Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen. The foaming agent may be 1,1-dimethylethyl hydrazine
chloride and/or iron chloride. The organic fibers may be mesh size 10 - 60 and may be jute. The
metallic material may be, but is not limited to, lead and/or aluminum.

20 All the above elements work together to yield a loudspeaker cabinet with excellent sound
quality at a practical cost. The novel characteristics of the CMC material permit fabrication of
10 the cabinets in various shapes, sizes and densities in order to match the requirements of the
loudspeaker. The process and tooling permit the cabinet to be fabricated for a lower cost than
25 other available technologies.

30 It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following
detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only, and are not restrictive of the invention
15 as claimed. The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated herein by reference, and which
constitute a part of this specification, illustrate certain embodiments of the invention and together
35 with the detailed description serve to explain the principles of the present invention.

40 Brief Description of the Drawings

20 Fig. 1A is a rear view of an embodiment of the present invention.

45 Fig. 1B is a side view of an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 1C is a front view of an embodiment of the present invention.

50 Fig. 2A and 2B is a cross section in elevation of an embodiment of the present invention.

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Fig. 3 is a side view of two typical sets of molds in a press used in the process to make an embodiment of the present invention.

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Fig. 4 is a plan view of Fig. 3.

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Fig. 5 is a flow chart of the production process for making an embodiment of the present invention.

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Fig. 6 is a graphical representation of the frequency response of a loudspeaker mounted in an embodiment of the present invention.

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Fig. 7 is a graphical representation of the percent harmonic distortion of a loudspeaker mounted in an embodiment of the present invention.

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Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

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Reference will now be made in detail to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, an example of which is illustrated in the accompanying drawing. A preferred embodiment of the present invention is illustrated by Figs. 1A, 1B, 1C, and Figs. 2A and 2B.

30

The CMC loudspeaker cabinet 10 includes a shell 20, and a face 30. The shell 20 incorporates a novel connector terminal mount 40 as shown in any of Figs. 1A, 1C, and 2A that is molded as a well into the lower rear edge of the shell 20. The connector terminal mount 40 may be located on any surface of the shell 20. The connector terminal mount 40 allows for the placement of electrical connection devices in a protected, yet accessible location.

40

Description of a specific loudspeaker enclosure as illustrated in Fig. 1

20

A sub-woofer cabinet in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is intended for use in an automotive, marine, or any outdoor application is illustrated in Fig. 1. It is sized to mount a 10" diameter sub-woofer loudspeaker 50 designed to operate in the frequency range of 25-150 Hz. The two molded CMC parts, a face 30 and a shell 20 are bonded with a

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5 compatible adhesive. The completed CMC cabinet 10 weighs approximately 12 lbs. and has an
internal displacement of .65 cu. ft. The average and uniform wall thickness of this enclosure is
10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The present invention, however, is not limited to the sub-woofer cabinet 10 illustrated in
Figs. 1A-1C. It is contemplated that the present invention may be used to make a cabinet for any
5 type and size speaker cabinet.

15 This enclosure incorporates a novel connector terminal mount feature 40 that is a well
molded into the lower rear edge of the shell.

20 **Material:**

10 The material, CMC, is a blend of various wood fibers, inorganic fillers and property
modifying additives combined with a high modulus polymeric resin system. CMC is composed
25 of various combinations of, but is not limited to, the following materials: thermoset resins or any
hybrid combination of thermoset resins not limited to but preferably in the range of 25-85%;
milled glass fiber not limited to but preferably in the range of 1-10%; fine wood flour (mesh size
30 100 - 200) not limited to but preferably in the range of 1-20%; coarse wood flour (mesh size 10
- 50) not limited to but preferably in the range of 10-40%; glass bead or fly ash not limited to but
preferably in the range of 5-20%; colloidal silica not limited to but preferably in the range of
35 0.5-3%; fine grind calcium carbonate not limited to but preferably in the range of 5-20%; alumina
trihydrate not limited to but preferably in the range of 5-20%; elastomeric particulate (such as,
but not limited to, rubber tire regrind) not limited to but preferably in the range of 2-15%; catalyst
40 Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen or other comparable catalyst ("MEKP") not
limited to but preferably in the range of 1-5%; foaming agent (such as 1,1-dimethylethyl
45 hydrazine chloride and iron chloride or equivalent) not limited to but preferably in the range of
1-3%; and 10-60 mesh organic fibers (such as, but not limited to, jute) not limited to but
50 preferably in the range of 5-10%; finely divided metallic material such as, but not limited to,

5 lead or aluminum not limited to but preferably in the range of 20-50%. An alternative
formulation resulting in a water white (clear) enclosure but without the same material density or
10 cost advantages would consist of: thermoset resins not limited to but preferably in the range of
90-99%; catalyst Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen or other comparable catalyst not
5 limited to but preferably in the range of 1-10%; resin, fillers, modifiers, and catalyst may be
15 blended in a variety of proportions to provide specific physical and or acoustic characteristics in
the final product.

20 The Process of making an embodiment of the present invention is shown as a flow chart in
Fig. 5.

10 The dry ingredients are batch blended in a ribbon blender or equivalent. The liquid
ingredients, excluding the catalyst, are blended in a high shear mixer of the batch or continuous
25 type. The blended dry and blended liquid ingredients are continuously combined, excluding the
catalyst, in an auger mixer in a temperature and/or vacuum controlled environment. The resultant
15 high viscosity mixture (7000 - 10000 cps) is forced through a multi element static mixer by
means of a positive displacement pump. At the static mixer the catalyst (MEKP or equivalent)
30 is introduced into the mix by means of a second positive displacement pump linked to the
positive displacement high-viscosity pump. The catalyzed mixture is bulk extruded into the mold
35 by use of a metering extrusion head, the size of the shot to be determined by the volume of the
mold. The catalyzed but as yet uncured material is heated upon introduction to the mold by
40 means of a heated mold surface or by means of heaters at the point of extrusion to a temperature
between 100-150° to accelerate polymerization and foaming as required. The mold set is closed
45 and the material is distributed and then compressed by the mechanical action of the press to
pressures of between but not limited to 5 - 100 PSI. This pressure is maintained until the material
25 is sufficiently cured to allow removal of the part from the mold. The mixture temperature at the
50

5 mold surface will be 100-150 deg. F at the start of the molding cycle rising to 200-350 deg. F due to exothermic reactions of the resin with the catalyst at the end of the cycle.

10 The opening of the mold and the removal of the part occurs between 5 and 20 minutes after catalyzation dependent upon material heat, mold heat, catalyst amount and part volume.

15 The molds are of the male/female type and the construction of the molds may be but not limited to any of the following types including laminated polyester glass, laminated epoxy glass, cast epoxy, cast acrylic, polished metal, or electro-formed metal.

20 The press may be of any size and tonnage appropriate to the part being molded and may be pneumatic or hydraulic in type. It is also possible to use manually operated clamps to close 10 the mold if the required rate of production permits.

25 Following curing and removal from the mold, the flash is removed and the parts may be bonded together using any appropriate commercial adhesive engineered for use with the resin from which the mixture was made. A spray finish can be applied either automatically or manually 30 if required.

35 One of the advantages of this material and process over traditional wood construction is that the finished product can be made in any shape conceivable in essentially one operation. The labor costs associated with fabrication and assembly of traditional cabinets are eliminated. Complex hollow forms are assembled from one or more molded pieces to keep the tooling 40 simple. The adhesive used to bond multiple parts is chemically compatible with the castings and 20 the adhesion is made while the part surfaces are still chemically active. The integrity of a near 'single-piece' molded structure results in lower costs for fabrication as well as in a finished part 45 of great inherent strength and durability.

50 The improved sound quality exhibited by loudspeakers mounted in non-planar surface cabinets made from this material is primarily the result of the near total elimination of standing

5 waves. In an acoustic environment such as a loudspeaker enclosure, standing waves are a
response caused by the geometry and materials of the space. At a specific wavelength a space
10 having parallel sound-reflective surfaces (such as the inside of a typical sub-woofer cabinet) will
develop a standing wave. This means that any sustained sound put into the space reflects off the
5 parallel surfaces in phase reinforcing itself and builds up in level leading to un-natural distortion
15 and in extreme cases, cancellation of the sound. Because curved surfaces are impractical, the
typical solution is to treat the space with sound deadening materials such as fiberglass batting,
or to make some of the surfaces angled which helps but does not eliminate the problem.

20 This lack of frequency specific cancellation results from the absence of flat and parallel
10 reflecting surfaces inside the enclosure. In addition the one-piece construction of the enclosure
does not leak air maintaining maximum performance of the loudspeaker. The material itself may
25 be produced in a wide range of densities and may include a range of additives with a concurrent
wide range of acoustic damping which can be used to enhance the sound quality of the
30 loudspeaker in any given application. Testing of a .65 cu. ft. displacement sealed enclosure
15 mounting a 10" sub-woofer has yielded the results in Figs. 6 and 7. This testing demonstrates
35 highly efficient power output with minimal distortion through the loudspeaker's full range of
rated frequencies.

40 This new material is weatherproof; it will withstand extremes of temperature and
humidity beyond the capability of wood and of sheet pressed wood products. Sections of molded
20 material have been boiled for longer than 12 hours with no deleterious effect on the structure or
appearance of the sample. Unlike fabricated wood materials which are generally pressed
45 powders, CMC is totally non-permeable and will not permit the passage of water or air.
Additionally, this material can be drilled and tapped to accept threaded fasteners and machined
50 to accurate, stable dimensions.

5 It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can
be made in the construction, configuration, and/or operation of the present invention without
departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. For example, in the embodiments mentioned
10 above, various changes may be made to the composition and process for making the loudspeaker
cabinet without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. Further, it may be
15 appropriate to make additional modifications or changes to the shape or size of the loudspeaker
cabinet without departing from the scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present
invention covers the modifications and variations of the invention provided they come within the
20 scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

10

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Example 1

Process for Making An Embodiment of the Present Invention

The CMC formulation used to make an embodiment of the present invention is as follows:

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	Item	% by Wt.	Description
	Resin	76.81	Unsaturated polyester thermoset resin
	Coarse wood	13.32	Pine wood flour (20 mesh)
	Fine wood	1.78	Pine wood (100 mesh)
	Glass bead	5.96	Glass bead
	Silica	0.59	AeroSil
	Catalyst	1.54	MEKP

As shown in Fig. 4, the coarse wood, fine wood, glass bead, and silica are batch blended in
a mechanical blender (ribbon blender) (Step A).

50

The dry filler blend is fed by means of an auger metering device into the auger mixer
(Giesco Mixer) along with the thermoset resin which is metered proportionally by means of a

5 positive displacement pump internal to the mixing machine (Step B). The wet mixed material is
discharged into the input hopper of a second mixing machine incorporating a static mix tube and
10 catalyst metering pump (Liquid Control Meter Mixer) (Step C). The catalyst is added and the
activated material is extruded through the static mix tube which is heated to 120 deg. F. The
5 material is metered into the open molds (bottom mold sections) by volume as indicated by the pump
15 stroke count (Step D).

Two parts are required to make one complete assembled enclosure, a face (approximately
20 3 lbs.) and a shell (approximately 9 lbs.). There may be 2 bottom face molds and 2 bottom shell
molds in the lower platen and 2 top face molds and 2 top shell molds in the moving upper platen
10 of the press. Each of the mold sections may be constructed of laminated polyester tooling resin and
25 glass fiber and may be supported by an integral welded steel frame. Each mold section used to
make this enclosure may weigh approximately 25 lbs. and may be approximately 16" X 16" X 12
" in size. These molds are mounted in an air-operated press designed specifically for this enclosure
30 and process, as shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. The present invention, however, is not limited to
15 configurations described above, rather, it is contemplated that various sizes and shapes may be used
35 to construct the desired cabinets.

Once the correct amount of catalyzed CMC is extruded into each bottom mold the mixer
is shut down and flushed out and the press is activated to close the molds (Step E). At 7 minutes
40 into the cure the press is opened and the parts are allowed to continue to cure and gain rigidity in
the open bottom molds for an additional 3 minutes. When the parts are rigid enough they are lifted
20 from the molds (Step F), the flash is trimmed, and the parts are left to cool and finish curing. As
45 soon as the parts have cooled (approximately 20 minutes after the addition of the catalyst) they are
bonded. The adhesive (Lord 660 acrylic adhesive or equivalent) is mixed and applied to one
50 bonding surface and a face and shell are pressed together and held in place in an alignment fixture

5 until the adhesive is set (approximately 5 minutes). The assembly is removed from the fixture after
the adhesive has set and the part is wiped with solvent and sent to be painted (Step G).

10 Fig. 5 presents the description of and the process for producing the loudspeaker enclosure
illustrated in Fig. 1 above.

5 As shown in Fig. 6, the ability to mold enclosures with curved interior surfaces reduces
15 standing waves which in test results shows smooth transition from 30Hz to 1000Hz without any
appreciable cancellation (negative spikes). In this embodiment the loudspeaker is designed to
operate at 40 Hz or higher.

20 As shown in Fig. 7, this test shows second harmonic distortion is all but eliminated, on
10 average, from 40Hz to 100Hz. (second harmonic should be generally below 5%). In this
25 embodiment the loudspeaker is designed to operate at 40Hz or higher.

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Claims

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I CLAIM:

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1. A loudspeaker cabinet comprising at least one wall made of a compression molded cellulose material.

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2. A loudspeaker cabinet comprising: a face portion; a shell portion; and means to join said face portion to said shell portion; wherein said shell portion is composed of a compression molded cellulose material.

20

3. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 2, wherein said face portion is composed of a compression molded cellulose material.

25

4. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 2, wherein said shell portion contains a recessed area to accommodate speaker terminal connections.

30

5. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 2, wherein said face portion possesses a means to mount a loudspeaker to said face portion.

35

6. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 2, wherein said shell portion and said face portion contain curved interior and exterior surfaces.

40

7. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material is of uniform density.

45

8. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises thermoset resins in the range of 25-85%.

9. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises milled glass fiber in the range of 1-10%.

10. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises fine wood flour in the range of 1-20%.

50

5 11. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises course wood flour in the range of 10-40%.

10 12. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises glass beads in the range of 5-20%.

15 13. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises fly ash in the range of 5-20%.

20 14. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises colloidal silica in the range of 0.5-3%.

25 15. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises fine grind calcium carbonate in the range of 5-20%.

30 16. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises alumina trihydrate in the range of 5-20%.

35 17. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises elastomeric particulate in the range of 2-15%.

40 18. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises a catalyst in the range of 1-5%.

45 19. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises a foaming agent in the range of 1-3%.

50 20. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises organic fibers in the range of 5-10%.

55 21. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises finely divided metallic material in the range of 20-50%.

5

22. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 8, wherein said thermoset resins are selected from the group consisting of polyester thermoset resins, polyurethane thermoset resins, epoxy thermoset resins, and phenolic thermoset resins.

10

23. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 8, wherein said thermoset resins are blended unsaturated polyester thermoset resins.

15

24. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 8, wherein said thermoset resins are any hybrid combination of thermoset resins.

20

25. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 10, wherein said fine wood flour is mesh size 100 - 200.

25

26. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 11, wherein said coarse wood flour is mesh size 10 - 50.

30

27. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 17, wherein said elastomeric particulate is comprised of rubber.

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28. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 17, wherein said elastomeric particulate is rubber tire regrind.

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29. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 18, wherein said catalyst is Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide.

30. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 18, wherein said catalyst is Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen.

45

31. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 19, wherein said foaming agent is 1,1-dimethylethyl hydrazine chloride.

50

32. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 19, wherein said foaming agent is iron chloride.

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5

33. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 20, wherein said organic fibers are mesh size 10 - 60.

10

34. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 20, wherein said organic fibers are jute.

35. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 21, wherein said metallic material is lead.

15

36. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 21, wherein said metallic material is aluminum.

20

37. A loudspeaker cabinet comprised of a compression molded cellulose material, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises unsaturated polyester thermoset resins in the range of 90-99%.

25

38. The loudspeaker cabinet according to Claim 37, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises the catalyst Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen in the range of 1-10%.

30

39. A method of manufacturing a loudspeaker cabinet of a compression molded cellulose material comprising the steps of:

35

blending dry compression molded cellulose ingredients in a first blender to form a blended dry compression molded cellulose mixture;

40

mixing liquid compression molded cellulose ingredients, excluding a catalyst, in a first mixer to form a mixed liquid compression molded cellulose mixture;

continuously combining said blended dry compression molded cellulose mixture and said mixed liquid compression molded cellulose mixture in a second mixer to form a high viscosity compression molded cellulose mixture;

45

10 pumping said high viscosity compression molded cellulose mixture into a third mixer by means of a first pump while simultaneously introducing a catalyst into said high viscosity

50

5 compression molded cellulose mixture by means of a second pump to form a catalyzed compression
molded cellulose mixture;

10 extruding said catalyzed compression molded cellulose mixture into at least one male or
female mold of at least one of a male and female mold set;

15 heating said catalyzed compression molded cellulose mixture upon introduction to said at
least one male or female mold to 100 - 200 degrees F.;

20 closing said at least one mold set to distribute said catalyzed compression molded cellulose
mixture;

25 compressing said at least one mold set to pressures of between 5 - 100 PSI;
maintaining said pressure until said catalyzed compression molded cellulose mixture forms
at least one cured compression molded cellulose part;

30 opening said at least one mold set and removing said at least one cured compression molded
cellulose part.

35 25 removing flash from said at least one cured compression molded cellulose part; and
bonding said at least one cured compression molded cellulose part using a compatible
adhesive.

40 40. The method according to claim 39, wherein said dry compression molded cellulose
ingredients comprise at least one of milled glass fiber, fine wood flour, coarse wood flour, glass
beads, fly ash, colloidal silica, calcium carbonate, alumina trihydrate, elastomeric particulate,
organic fibers, or finely divided metallic material.

45 45. The method according to claim 39, wherein said liquid compression molded cellulose
ingredients comprise thermoset resins.

50 42. The method according to the above claim, wherein said liquid compression molded
cellulose ingredients further comprise foaming agents.

5

43. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said first blender is a ribbon blender.

44. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said first mixer is a high shear mixer.

10

45. The method according to Claim 44, wherein said high shear mixer is a batch type high shear mixer.

15

46. The method according to Claim 44, wherein said high shear mixer is a continuous type high shear mixer.

47. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said second mixer is an auger mixer.

20

48. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said high viscosity compression molded cellulose mixture is formed in a temperature controlled environment.

25

49. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said high viscosity compression molded cellulose mixture is formed in a vacuum controlled environment.

30

50. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said high viscosity compression molded cellulose mixture is pumped into said third mixer at a rate of 7000 - 10000 centimeters per second.

35

51. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said third mixer is a static mixer.

52. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said third mixer is a multi element static mixer.

40

53. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said first pump and said second pump are positive displacement pumps.

45

54. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said first pump is functionally linked to said second pump.

55. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said catalyzed compression molded cellulose mixture is extruded into said at least one male or female mold by use of a metering extrusion head.

50

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56. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said catalyzed compression molded cellulose mixture is heated by means of at least one heated mold surface.

10

57. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said catalyzed compression molded cellulose mixture is heated by means of at least one heater at the point of extrusion.

15

58. The method according to Claim 39, wherein said pressure is maintained from between 5 - 20 minutes after addition of said catalyst.

20

59. A loudspeaker cabinet comprised of compression molded cellulose material, wherein said compression molded cellulose material comprises:

25

thermoset resin in the range of 71-83%;

coarse wood in the range of 10-16%;

30

5 fine wood in the range of 1-3%;

glass bead in the range of 4-8%;

silica in the range of 0.1-2%; and

catalyst in the range of 1-3%.

35

60. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 59, wherein said thermoset resin is an unsaturated polyester thermoset resin.

40

61. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 59, wherein said coarse wood is 20 mesh pine wood flour.

45

62. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 59, wherein said fine wood is 100 mesh pine wood.

63. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 59, wherein said silica is AeroSil.

50

64. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 59, wherein said catalyst is Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen.

5

65. A compression molded cellulosic material comprising thermoset resins in the range of 25-85%.

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66. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising milled glass fiber in the range of 1-10%.

15

67. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising fine wood flour in the range of 1-20%.

20

68. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising coarse wood flour in the range of 10-40%.

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69. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising glass beads in the range of 5-20%.

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70. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising fly ash in the range of 5-20%.

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71. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising colloidal silica in the range of 0.5-3%.

40

72. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising fine grind calcium carbonate in the range of 5-20%.

45

73. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising alumina trihydrate in the range of 5-20%.

50

74. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising elastomeric particulate in the range of 2-15%.

75. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising a catalyst

in the range of 1-5%.

76. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising a foaming agent in the range of 1-3%.

5

77. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising organic fibers in the range of 5-10%.

10

78. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65 comprising finely divided metallic material in the range of 20-50%.

15

79. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65, wherein said thermoset resins are selected from the group consisting of polyester thermoset resins, polyurethane thermoset resins, epoxy thermoset resins, and phenolic thermoset resins.

20

80. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65, wherein said thermoset resins are blended unsaturated polyester thermoset resins.

25

81. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 65, wherein said thermoset resins are any hybrid combination of thermoset resins.

30

82. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 67, wherein said fine wood flour is mesh size 100 - 200.

35

83. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 68, wherein said coarse wood flour is mesh size 10 - 50.

40

84. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 74, wherein said elastomeric particulate is comprised of rubber.

45

85. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 74, wherein said elastomeric particulate is rubber tire regrind.

86. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 75, wherein said catalyst is Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide.

87. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 75, wherein said catalyst is Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide 9% free oxygen.

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88. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 76, wherein said foaming agent is 1,1 -dimethylethyl hydrazine chloride.

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89. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 76, wherein said foaming agent is iron chloride.

15

90. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 77, wherein said organic fibers are mesh size 10 - 60.

20

91. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 77, wherein said organic fibers are jute.

25

92. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 78, wherein said metallic material is lead.

30

93. The compression molded cellulose material according to Claim 78, wherein said metallic material is aluminum.

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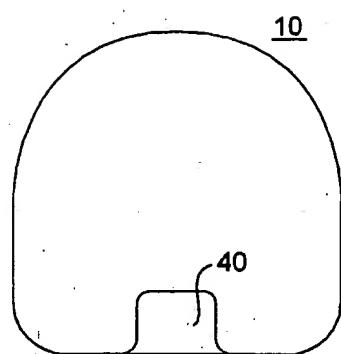


FIG. 1A

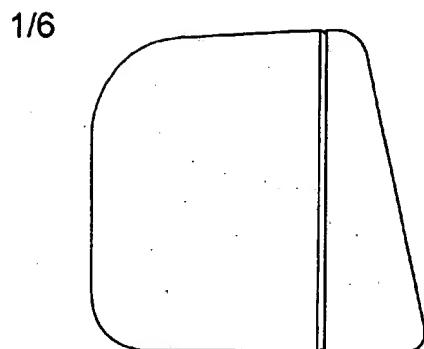


FIG. 1B

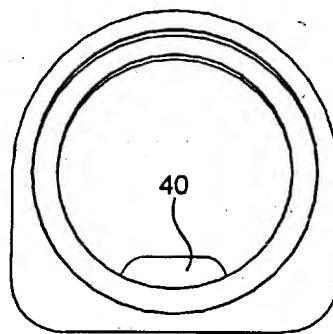


FIG. 1C

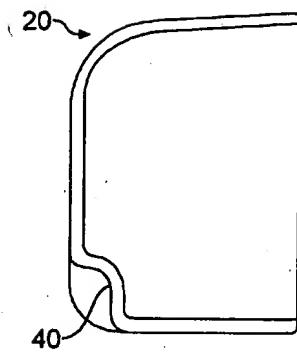


FIG. 2A

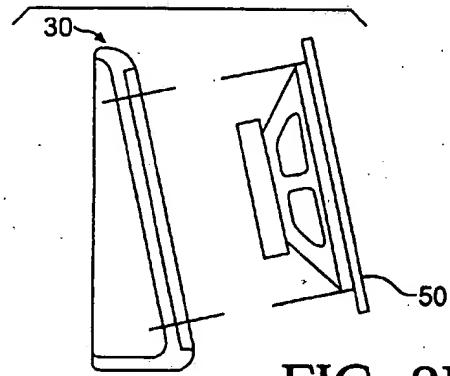


FIG. 2B

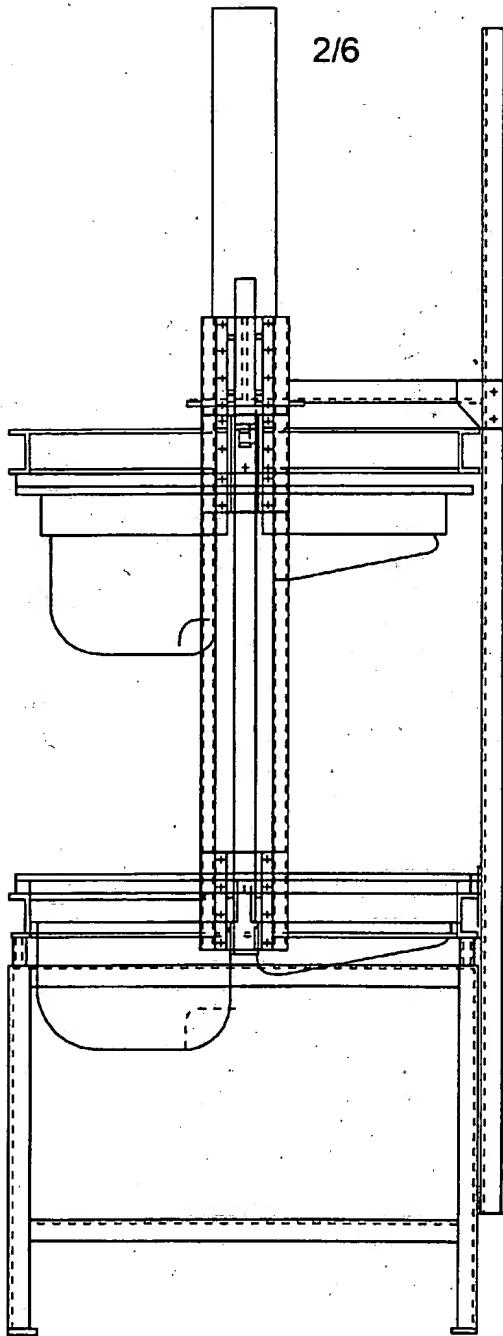


FIG. 3

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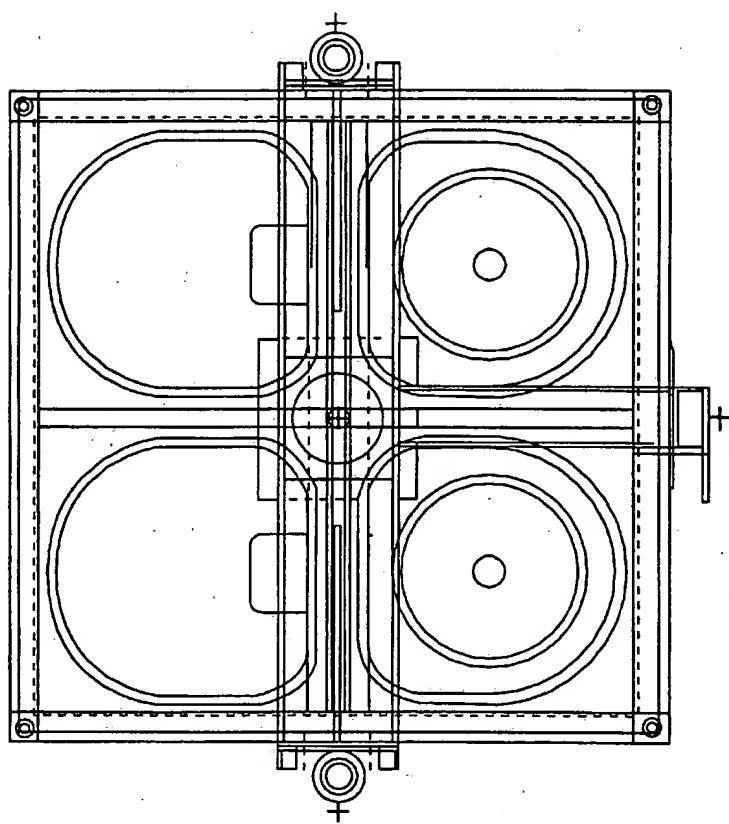


FIG. 4

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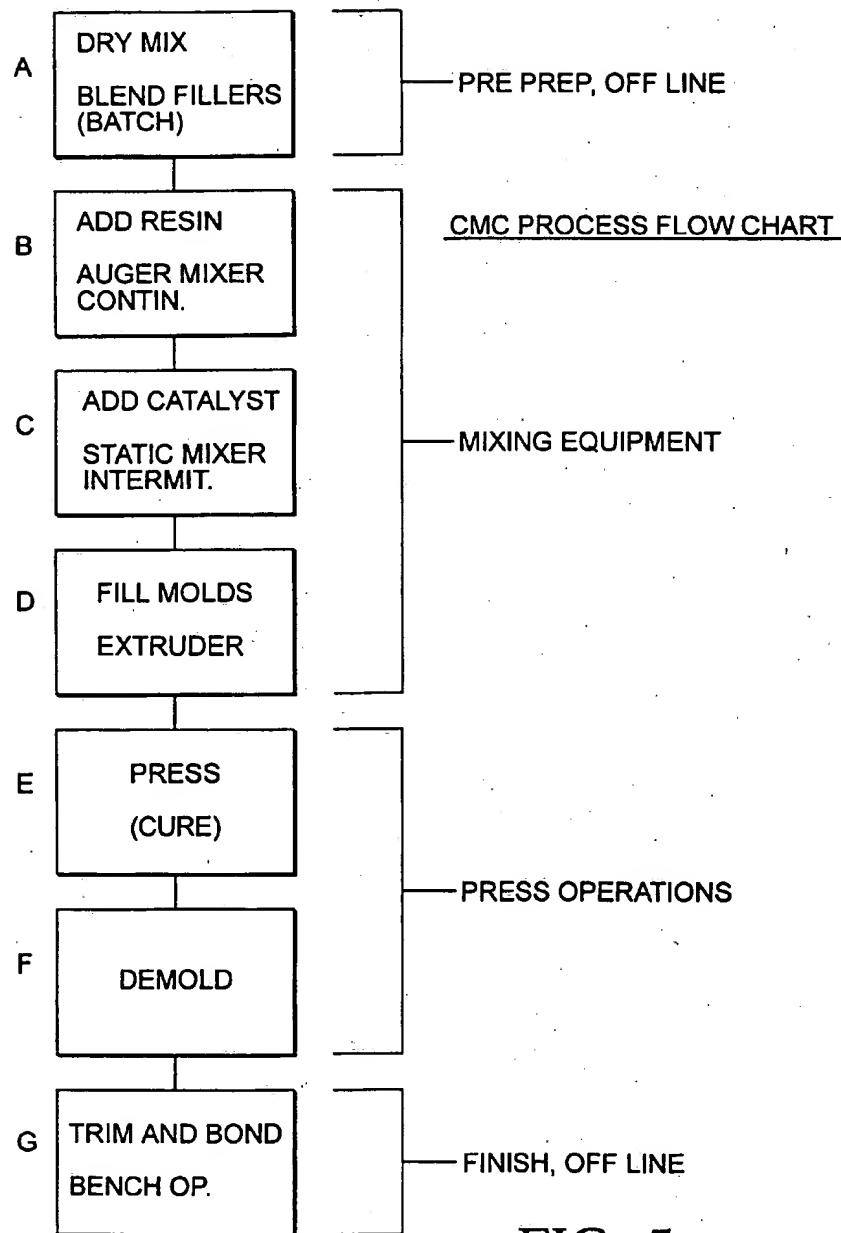


FIG. 5

45Hz TO 500 Hz +/- 2.9dB
33Hz TO 1000 Hz -10 dB POINTS
Avg SPL FOR FREQ RANGE 85.2 dB

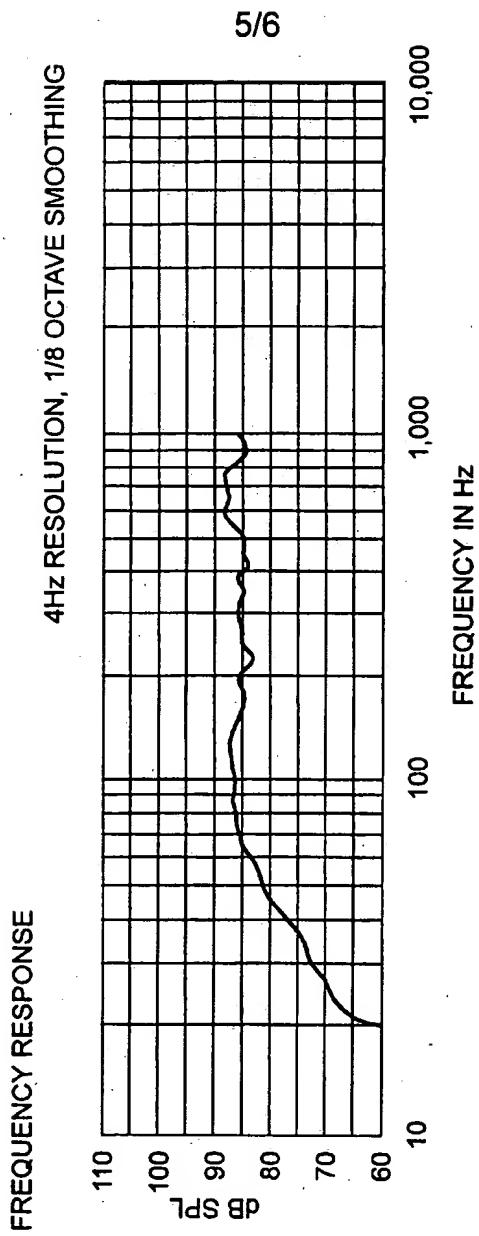


FIG. 6

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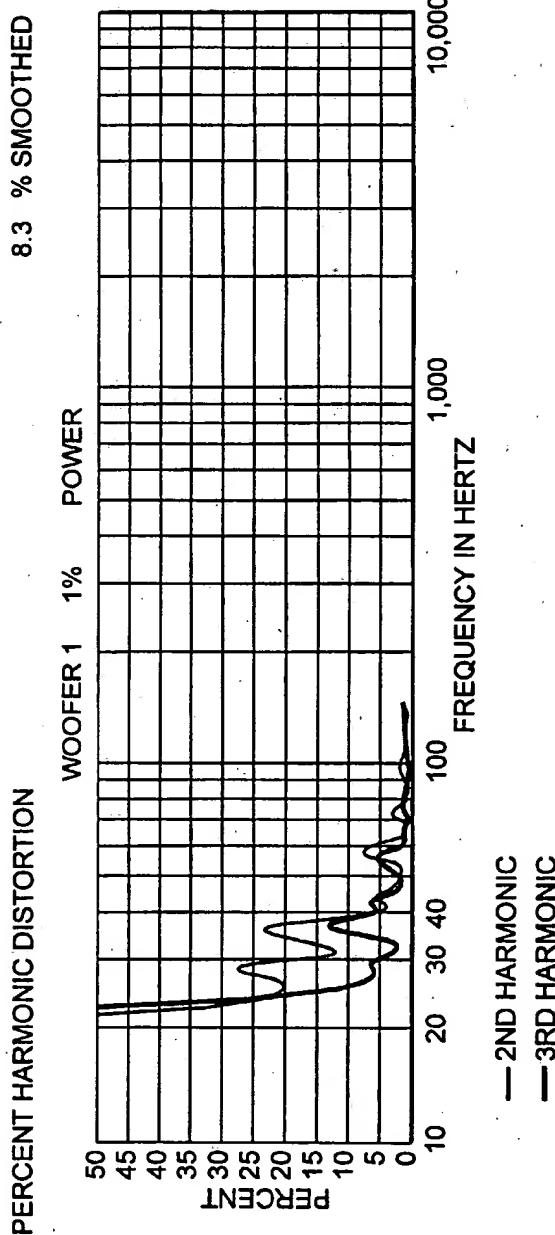
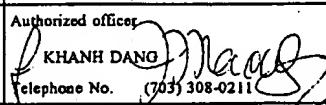


FIG. 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/09916

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC(7) :H05K 5/00; B29C 47/06 US CL :181/199; 156/243 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 181/148, 153		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,219,099 A (SACKS) 26 August 1980, (26/08/80) col. 3, line 60 to col. 4, line 14.	1-7
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "B" earlier document published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 27 JUNE 2000	Date of mailing of the international search report 24 JUL 2000	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  KHANH DANG Telephone No. (703) 308-0211	